



John Reich Journal

Volume 8 / Issue 2

January 1994

JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues \$10.00

For general membership information write to:

Office of the President, David J. Davis
P.O. Box 205, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

The **John Reich Journal** is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc. Inquiries about specific varieties will be directed to one of the experts in that series. All correspondence should be directed to:

Co-Editors

Bradley S. Karoleff, NLG
Keith G. Bellman, NLG
P.O. Box 135
Harrison, OH 45030

1993 / 1994 Officers

President David J. Davis
Vice President John W. McCloskey
Vice President Bradley S. Karoleff
Secretary Keith G. Bellman
Treasurer Russell J. Logan
Program Chairman D. Mark Smith
West Coast Representative James Matthews

Cover Photos: No, the printers did not reverse the negatives! On the front cover is a brockage of an 1825 dime (Obverse 2) and on the back cover is a brockage of an 1827 dime (Reverse 1).
[ex Lovejoy:69]
Photos courtesy of Tom Mulvaney.

John Reich Journal

Official publication of the

John Reich Collectors Society

Volume 8 / Issue 2

January 1994

Whole No. 23

Contents

Editors' Comments	2
Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points	4
Varieties of 1796 No Stars Quarter Eagles by Ed Price	6
A Tale Of Two 1799 B3 Dollars by Harry E. Salyards	10
The Connoisseur's Reference Library by David J. Davis	12
The 1839 Classic Gold Quarter Eagles by John W. McCloskey	16
Turban Head Half Dollar Census by Russell J. Logan	20
Capped Bust Half Dollar Secrets; The Screwpress by Edgar E. Souders	26
The Most Common Bust Half Dollar Die Marriage by Brian M. Wasserman	33
The Lone Attributor by Phil J. Evans	36
New Die State 1800 Dollar Discovered by Bowers and Merena	39
Eureka! That Last Elusive Overton by Darrel Heidigh	40

Editors' Comments

Happy New Year! Another FUN show has come and gone, beginning a new numismatic year for everyone. The opportunity to meet many of you at the show is always a highlight for me. Please take the time to look up any of the officers when you attend any of the regional or national shows. We all look forward to meeting you and discussing our common interests. There are usually open houses hosted in the hotel rooms of one of the officers for after hours discussions on coins. This is where you can ask questions of some of the senior members, or just exchange information concerning your next article for the **John Reich Journal**.

Speaking about the next **JR Journal**, we are in need of some articles for future publication. Some of you promised something at the FUN show for the April issue, but that may not be enough. Please send something, an article, question or comment to help fill the next issues. We cannot do this alone - the input must come from all of you reading this journal to help keep it interesting, and on time.

As you may have noticed, we have enclosed a couple of items for our members. First, you should find a membership application that we encourage you to pass on to someone that is interested in joining JRCS. Feel free to make copies, write us if you need more. We have lost a few members this year at renewal time, so be sure to remind members that you correspond with to send in their dues if they haven't done so. Even though the membership ranks have held steady around 450 members for the past few years, we would like to expand our ranks. There is no reason that we should not be a larger organization than we currently are. We need new blood to keep the 'old guard' on their toes. New collectors and researchers keep things interesting in our hobby. So, get out and sign up a new member today, the future of our hobby and organization depends on all of our efforts. Did that sound a little like the public television stations at subscription time?

Second, we have enclosed a "Bolender to BB Conversion" table. Bowers and Merena Galleries had recently come out with a two volume book on United States Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars. These tables (which double as a bookmark) are being distributed in an effort to ease the conversion from the numbering used in M. H. Bolender's, **The United States Early Silver Dollars From 1794 to 1803** to the new Bowers and Borckardt numbers in **Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia**. We know that a large number of our members either collect dollars specifically, or are crazy enough about bust coinage to collect all types and designs. (We should know . . . we fall into the latter category).

We are still offering back issues of the **John Reich Journal** for only \$4.50 each postpaid. Think about completing your sets and catching up on all of the former research that has been published in the **JRJ**. We are constantly referring back to past issues for information during research. There is no better place to find interesting and informative articles on bust coinage. We are currently sold out of the following journals: Volume 1, Issue 1; Volume 3, Issue 2/3; Volume 4, Issue 3; Volume 5, Issue 3 (Whole Numbers 1, 8, 11, 14). There are a couple of other issues that are in short supply. You can also still order the leather binding for your set of journals Volumes 1-5. Please contact the editors at the P.O. Box for more information. The cost is still \$100.00 which includes insured return postage.

As we mentioned last issue, *The Editors' Notes* were the first that were written completely electronically. Brad has been typing away frantically on a number of projects and articles. In addition to this, Keith has finally completed Internet access to the College of Mount St. Joseph, where he works. His electronic mail (e-mail) address is **bellman@clcunix.msj.edu**. We have recently received the first article that was sent to us through e-mail over the Internet (large computer network around the world).

People who have access to the Internet at work can send e-mail messages (or even their articles) over this electronic network. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may also send e-mail to the Internet via other popular computer bulletin boards such as **CompuServe** or **Prodigy**. There might be a slight charge for sending e-mail, but it should not be much more expensive than the U.S. Postal Service (especially when you consider the cost of a diskette plus postage). If you have any questions about how to send e-mail, or articles, drop us a line at the P.O. Box, or you can send a message to the e-mail address listed above. Please check with the service you use about access to the Internet, or cost, before contacting us.

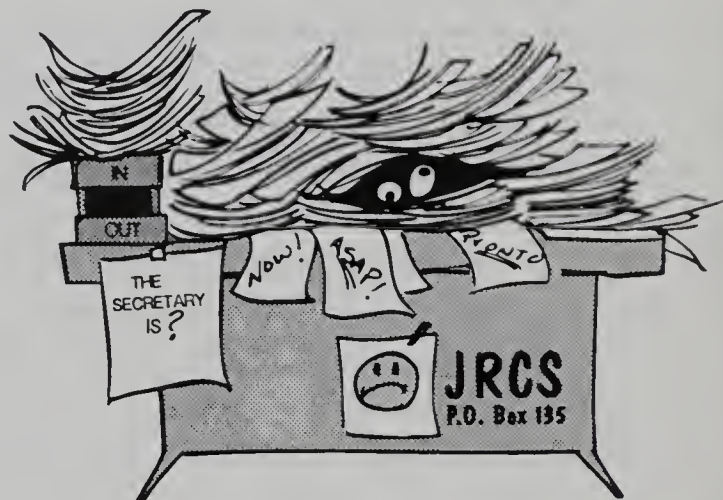
The pool of information on bust coinage continues to grow with each quarterly issue of the journal. This, coupled with the new books issued each year, gives ample reading for us numismatic bibliomaniacs. The current issue has the first Turban Half Dollar census that JRCS has ever published. This breaks new ground in distributing condition census information to the general membership. We would like to thank all the contributors to this, and all the other censuses that we publish. Your efforts are appreciated. Now sit back and get ready to enjoy this issue of the **John Reich Journal**.

Bradley S. Karoleff / Keith G. Bellman

Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points

JRCS

Do you two tire of having me (and others) tell you that you are doing a great job? If you are like most of us human creatures, you probably do not mind it a bit - and you shouldn't, because it is the simple truth. I think that **JRJ** is without question the outstanding silver coinage journal for the pre-1836 mint era - and I most certainly want to see it stay that way, and I will do all I can to help, including leading the cheers!



Let me begin with some comments on Harry Salyards comments on my article *An Estimate of 'The Survivors'* from Volume 7, Issue 3 (April, 1993). You will recall that I did not say that my figures were correct. I said they were estimates, and they were obviously based on the Overton - BHNC rarity figures. If the rarity estimates are incorrect, then, of course, my conclusions would be incorrect.

I will readily agree that there are R1 varieties which almost certainly have a lot more than 1500 survivors, and the R2s quite likely have some understated numbers. However, it is my opinion that a 30% survival figure is even wilder than my estimate. Walter Breen was a tremendous numismatist, and a wonderful researcher, but not even Walter was always right. Using Mr. Salyards figures for R1, R2 and R3 would not give anything like an 11,000,000 survivorship. And I do not really think there are any 500,000,000 surviving Morgan dollars, either. Remember, to some extent we keep seeing the same inventory over and over. Harry's final conclusion is one that I can absolutely and whole-heartedly agree with, however . . . "Until we can plug accurate data into a workable rarity scale, the 'bottom line' will remain anybody's guess". I am pleased that I started a discussion, and will be interested in the reaction of others.

David Finkelstein's article on *Obverse Die Dentil Analysis, Part I - Capped Bust Halves, 1807 to 1819* really struck a chord with me since I have also been counting and pondering dentils for some time. I am also enormously pleased to see what I believe will be full acceptance by the numismatic community of the one term - dentils - and hope it becomes the only word used for the cute little rascals! As of now, it is the one I shall always use.

David has obviously done one heck of a job - and has come up with some fascinating theories and conclusions. It is interesting how two people will study the same thing, but go

at it from quite different angles. I have been in touch with David, and have sent him copies of my 'count charts'. My work on dentils has been of a much more general nature than his, and I believe I could produce a general background piece which would complement David's work. Would the co-editors be interested? *[ed. - Yes, we are always interested in articles, letters and comments from the membership.]*

Russ Logan, as usual, displays his talent for breaking new ground. It had never occurred to me that die remarriages could be tracked and identified. He has certainly demonstrated it, and provided the opportunity for the rest of us to look for something new. Thanks, Russ!

The scalloped point has always been one of those items on the early Busties that has intrigued serious collectors (or even casual collectors). Dick Kurtz did a great job of giving us even more food for thought.

And who hasn't wondered about countermarks? Is there any established correlation between the countermarks on early dollars, and those on early halves? Robert Stark's piece gives us the first good reference point that I have seen.

Philip J. Evans



I am in pursuit of statistical data regarding the "die strength theory" of Hilt and the dates and quantities of minting postulated by Breen in specific references to the varieties of Capped Bust Eagles. The relative simplicity of the chronology of die usage of the early eagles makes this series the choice to either verify or refute the previously published and widely accepted mintages, rarities, and dates of issue gleaned from data in the National Archives from the years 1795-1804. Proving these theories regarding eagles could lead to applying them to other issues with resultant expansion of current knowledge.

I hereby request the help of anyone who has compiled a data base on the varieties, conditions, and die states, as well as dates of appearance at public sales of early eagles. Your help and sharing of your work will be held in high esteem and amply referenced.

David Kenny
11938 Bargate Court
Rockville, MD 20852

Varieties of 1796 No Stars Quarter Eagles Ed Price

I believe there are two - and only two - known die varieties of the 1796 No Stars Quarter Eagle. This is not a startling conclusion since both the **Breen Encyclopedia**⁽¹⁾ and Robert Hilt's book **Die Varieties of Early United States Coins**⁽²⁾ list only two varieties. However, Breen's earlier monographs are less clear. This article attempts to bring together published information on this subject.

BACKGROUND

1. Breen Monographs: 1964-1968

In 1964 Walter Breen produced his first monograph⁽³⁾ on U.S. Quarter Eagles. This important work provided collectors with ready access to a great deal of useful information, much of which had not been previously available. The monograph reflected Breen's remarkable research skills, as well as his broad numismatic knowledge.

Breen listed one variety of 1796 with No Stars. This is the fairly common variety offered several times each year at major auctions. In 1968 Breen updated the earlier work⁽⁴⁾ and listed two varieties of 1796 with No Stars. I believe that this was the first indication that a second variety existed. The update was based on the notebooks of Edgar H. Adams. The second variety was described as being from the same obverse die as the first variety and from the reverse die of 1797. Breen indicated that this was based on "Gable: 358" and that no other had been reported. He also indicated that he would like to see the actual coin to be sure that Chapman had not inadvertently muled the print of the obverse of 1796 with the print of the reverse of 1797. His final words were "subject to verification."

2. Hilt book: 1980

In 1980, Robert Hilt's book, **Die Varieties of Early United States Coins**, was published. Hilt identified two varieties of 1796 No Stars Quarter Eagles, sharing the only known obverse. Large plates of both varieties are included.

The first variety is designated as 2A. Hilt indicates that this reverse die cracked extensively and was used only for the first 66 quarter eagles

delivered on September 21, 1796. Hilt states that this variety was discovered by Harry Bass, who had by then identified three specimens. While the 2A reverse is clearly not the 1797 reverse, the dies are quite similar.

The second variety is designated as 2B. This is the more commonly available variety. Hilt indicates that the total mintage of 897 of these quarter eagles were delivered on December 8, 1796.

3. Breen Encyclopedia: 1988

Here Breen refers to only two varieties, including the rare Hilt 2A and the more common Hilt 2B. There is no mention of a variety with the reverse of 1797. Breen makes extensive reference to Hilt's work.

FURTHER RESEARCH

The above suggested that there are only two varieties, the rare Hilt 2A and the more common Hilt 2B. However, there was still the lingering doubt generated by the references in the 1968 Breen monograph to the 1797 reverse. In addition, I was aware that **Early United States Dimes 1796-1837⁽⁵⁾** lists seven Heraldic Eagle reverse dies which are common to Draped Bust Dimes and quarter eagles dated from 1797 to 1807. (It is interesting to note that all but one or two of the known quarter eagle varieties dated from 1797 to 1807 share their reverse with a Draped Bust Dime). This listing, as well as an emission sequence, are based on research done by Bill Subjack. The listing indicates that the same reverse die was used for the 1797 quarter eagle and for the 1798 JR1 dime. Clearly, this reverse die *might* have also been used for a 1796 quarter eagle. So I proceeded with the following:

1. I reviewed many auction catalogs. These included Stack's (1955 to date), Superior (1970 to date), Bowers & Merena (1972 to date) and selected catalogs from Kosoff, Mehl, New Netherlands, Paramount and others. I was also looking for several other items. I noted no appearances of 1796 No Stars quarter eagles with the reverse of 1797.

I did note appearances of two coins of the Hilt 2A variety. The first was in Stack's April 21, 1966 auction of the Conway Bolt collection as lot #713 at \$5500. This coin, which was not attributed as an unusual variety, is EF and is the finest I am aware of. It may, of course, be one of the three known to Harry Bass in 1980 - and possibly resides in his collection. The other coin is a cleaned and scratched VG which first appeared in the

Paramount July 8, 1977 sale as lot #498 at \$4200. The coin was attributed as a "very rare variety." By the time this coin reappeared in the Stack's section of Auction '88 it had lost its Paramount provenance and was not attributed as an unusual variety. The coin was lot #1347 at \$5610.

2. I was still bothered by Breen's early reference to Gable: 358. With help from John Adams' marvelous reference work⁽⁶⁾ I determined that the Gable Collection had been catalogued by S. H. Chapman and sold on May 27, 1914. I called the ANS and received excellent service from Francis Campbell, the ANS Librarian. Within a few days I had a photocopy of Plate VI from the Gable Sale. The copy is clear enough to determine that lot #358 is actually the Hilt 2A variety. Further, the plate includes lot #360 which is a 1797 quarter eagle. The reverses are quite similar, but definitely different.

Photos of the reverses of the coins accompany this article. The photos marked "Hilt 2A" and "Hilt 2B" are the reverses of a 1796 Hilt 2A and Hilt 2B respectively. The photo marked "1797 die" is actually the reverse of a 1798 JR1 dime, which was struck from the same reverse die as the 1797 quarter eagle. The three reverses have many minor differences in the placement of the stars and letters. They are readily distinguished by noting the relative positions of stars 1 and 2 and stars 8 and 15. (Stars 8 and 15 are the two lowest stars directly to the left of the eagle's neck, with star 15 being closest to the neck.):



Hilt 2A - Stars 8 and 15 are close to horizontal. According to Hilt, this reverse was used for the first delivery of quarter eagles which was only 66 coins.



Hilt 2B - Star 8 is above star 15 and further apart. This reverse was used for the second delivery of no stars quarter eagles which consisted of 897 coins.

- Stars 1 and 2 are closest to each other on Hilt 2A and farthest from each other on Hilt 2B. Also, on Hilt 2B star 1 is further from the wing and star 2 is closer to the center of cloud 2 than on either of the others.
- Stars 8 and 15 are close to horizontal on Hilt 2A and Star 8 is above star 15 on both of the others. Stars 8 and 15 are furthest apart on Hilt 2B.

CONCLUSIONS

I believe that there are only two known varieties of 1796 No Stars Quarter Eagles. I assume that in 1968 Breen had only the Adams' reference to the Gable coin as evidence for a 1797 reverse and had not then been able to examine the plates or an example of the coin. By the time his Encyclopedia was published, he had apparently also concluded that the second variety was Hilt 2A, and that the 1797 reverse did not exist.

While I have confirmed that the Gable coin was actually Hilt 2A, there is still the possibility that a third 1796 No Stars reverse exists. After all, the still relatively new mint did make use of the same reverse dies in more than one year and, after 1796, the reverse heraldic eagle dies used for quarter eagles were almost always also used concurrently with Draped Bust Dimes.



The rarity of Hilt 2A is not clear. Hilt indicated that Harry Bass had identified three specimens and called it Rarity 8. It is possible that the three coins that Harry Bass was aware of when Hilt's book was published in 1980 included both of the lots I found in pre-1980 auction catalogs (one of which reappeared in 1988). Breen's Encyclopedia, published in 1988, says four are known. I am aware of a VF-30 specimen which was sold during 1992 by a Long Island, New York dealer and which included a Breen letter of authentication. That letter, dated October 12, 1990, indicated that the coin was one of four reported and called it high Rarity 7. My conclusion is that there are probably no more than about 6 of the original 66 coins surviving.

1797 die - Star 8 is above star 15 and close.
This is the reverse used for the 1798 JR1 dime, which was struck from the same reverse die the 1797 quarter eagle.

(continues on page 11)

A Tale Of Two 1799 B3 Dollars

(or, Buy the Plastic Before the Coin?)

Harry E. Salyards

This past Spring I purchased a 1799 B3 dollar (BB141 in Dave Bowers' new attribution scheme) in EF-40. The coin happened to be in a slab - NGC EF 40. For the first time ever, I left the coin in the plastic. This was simply because the dollars of 1794-1803, uniquely among regular United States issues, will not fit in the cotton-flannel pouches in which I store most of the remainder of my collection. Regardless of what the slab says, the coin is at least EF-40: I have seen worse, in and out of plastic, called '45' or, even '50.' It was that observation which initially set me to checking through auction catalogs to see if my coin had been plated in any major sale over the past few years - perhaps as a higher grade than which appears on the slab. I checked all the Stack's, Bowers, and Superior sales back to 1986: I did not find my coin. I did, however, discover a tale of two other Extremely Fine 1799 BB141's . . . a tale which tells an unfortunate story about today's coin market.

One of the BB141's in question first appeared in the Superior sale of the Buddy Ebsen Collection, lot 1901, in May, 1987. Unslabbed, it was called Extremely Fine 45+. Slightly less sharp than my coin, it is also less well-centered and shows several small rim impairments. Nonetheless, it sold for \$1980, with buyer's fee, in that sale (an auction which tended to bring very strong bids for its wide variety of choice, original silver). The same coin turned up again, still 'raw,' but now called Extremely Fine 45 (no 'plus') as lot 1719 in Superior's Century Collection Sale, February, 1992. It appeared to have been carefully kept over the five year interval since its prior sale. In a lower overall market, however, it commanded only \$1155. For such a coin to lose 42% of its perceived value in less than five years highlights the fact that not even our 'early Federal favorites' are immune to speculation . . . but that is nothing compared to the progress of the other 1799 BB141.

The other 1799 overdate dollar appeared as lot 1203 in Superior's October, 1990 sale. Described as originally coming from their June, 1986 Sale, lot 1197 (a catalog which I do not have for immediate comparison). By 1990 it resided in a PCGS holder as Extremely Fine 45; it is marginally sharper than my coin, but has some obvious planchet roughness across hair, face and fields which serves to conclusively identify it for future reference. It brought \$2200 in that 1990 sale. On balance, it is a marginally better coin than the Buddy Ebsen specimen, but I think that it is arguable whether it is 'over \$1000 better.' How much did its encapsulation have to do with its perceived rise in value? That question comes to the forefront in light of its subsequent appearance - this time without its previous provenance being listed: as lot 613 in Superior's January 31 - February 2, 1993 sale. Clearly identifiable

by its planchet roughness, it had 'changed residence,' now being in an NGC slab - as AU-53! That miraculous eight-point reduction in wear translated into a price realized, with the 'juice,' of \$5775.

Now, I know it is not '\$4600 better' than the other BB141 whose progress I have tracked, but someone apparently did. Or were they simply buying into a number under plastic?

[ed. - This a typical example of an experienced, educated collector versus the slab investor mentality that is prevalent in today's market.]



VARIETIES OF 1796 NO STARS QUARTER EAGLES

(continued from page 9)

Citations

- (1) Walter Breen, **Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins**, Doubleday, 1988.
- (2) Robert P Hilt II, **Die Varieties of Early United States Coins**, RTS Publishing Company, 1980.
- (3) Walter Breen, **Varieties of United States Quarter Eagles**, Hewitt Brothers, 1964.
- (4) Walter Breen, **New Varieties of \$1, \$2.50 and \$5.00 United States Gold**, Hewitt Printing Corporation, 1968.
- (5) David J. Davis, Russell J. Logan, Allen F. Lovejoy, John W. McCloskey, William L. Subjack, **Early United States Dimes 1796-1837**, John Reich Collectors Society, 1984
- (6) John W. Adams, **United States Numismatic Literature, Volume I**, George Frederick Kolbe Publications, 1982.



The Connoisseur's Reference Library

(or, How To Go Broke Buying Books)

David J. Davis

George Frederick Kolbe's first ANA book sale this past July featured the first sale of a leather bound author's copy of **Early U. S. Dimes 1796-1837**. In fact, there were two of them offered, and to everyone's surprise they both sold for \$525 plus the 10% buyers premium. When I originally discussed putting them in the sale, I was doubtful about George's original estimate of \$500. Shortly after the book was published in 1985, a book dealer gave me a standing offer of \$200 for one of my personal copies, but I really had no idea of their value. At that time, no one but myself knew that there were more than ten in existence, as we had advertised that there were only two made for each of the co-authors. His catalogue estimate was \$500 plus, and he told me he thought the first might sell for that amount and that the second would go for \$600 or \$700, as there would probably be more than two people still interested after the first one sold. The first lot was bought by a member of JRCS and the second was purchased by a book collector.

That, and a second incident at the convention, gave me the idea for this article. Another book collector, whose identity now escapes me, approached me on the bourse floor and said I had to go see Kolbe's deluxe leather bound edition of the new Bowers/Breen reprint of **The Early Quarter Dollars of the United States 1796-1838** by A.W. Browning. George published 25 copies specially printed on coated paper, accompanied by modern, top quality, photographic plates made from the original glass negatives all bound in leather by Handbridge Bindery. The copy he showed me was gorgeous, to say the least, but the price was a princely \$525. Anyone interested in quarters should have a copy of the update. A more thorough review of the book can be found in Russ Logan's article in **JRJ** Volume 7, Issue 2 (January, 1993). George's fixed price list No. 40 relates a little bit of the history about the update, and I quote,

Whatever could go wrong did, including the loss of the typeset manuscript after final proofreading, during a drug raid (!) at the printer's. Ultimately Dave Bowers took over the project and published the work last year.

The regular edition, only \$19.95 for softbound and \$29.95 for the hardbound, is available from Bowers & Merena or other book dealers.

To compliment that, a collector should have one of the five original deluxe Browning's. They were interleaved and bound in full morocco. The problem is that only one has been available in recent times, and Kolbe last sold it in his 9th Sale 6/81:595 for \$3200. Maybe in

the meantime one could settle for a copy of John J. Ford, Jr.'s 1950 reprint. I quote from Charles Davis' **American Numismatic Literature**:

In 1950, John Ford, who had acquired unbound original text as well as the original glass negatives from (Wayte) Raymond, made new impressions from the eight plates and bound three distinct versions in an total 'edition' of 20-30 copies. The first matched the original in its cloth binding but used a sans serif type face for its gilt stamping and included linen-backed plates that extended several millimeters beyond the adjacent text pages.

The second version, in an edition of five, was interleaved and bound in crimson half morocco, while a third version, also interleaved, is known in full red calf. While the Ford plates are conceded to be of higher quality, the majesty of the plates in both editions suffers from lack of foresight on the part of the publishers who, by failing to provide tissue guards, allowed their glossy surfaces to be scuffed by the abrasive linen backing on adjoining plates.

Whether one needs a copy of each version is purely a matter of taste, but it would require a lot of patience and money. An original Browning (issue of 100) typically sells for over \$1000 and the various Ford reprints sell for between \$300 and \$500.

A connoisseur would also need a leather bound copy of M.L. Beistle's 1929, **A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties and Subvarieties**. For those who are not familiar with the book, I again quote from Davis' book, page 17:

The first substantial work on Half Dollars, replacing the Haseltine Type Table, and remaining the standard reference for nearly 40 years. Based in part on the Colonel Green collection, the original edition was published in three versions. Two of these, green cloth and heavy black card covers, contain 7 good quality halftone plates, four of which cover 1794-1797 and 1810 fairly completely, and three being of less value illustrating Commemoratives, General Types, and the Confederate Half Dollar. The third version, published in a numbered edition of 135, was interleaved with all edges gilt, used actual photographic plates and was bound in a brown limp morocco. While the plates are generally high quality, they are occasionally found with so little contrast as to make them inferior to the more consistent halftones. The number of deluxe editions supposedly prepared is somewhat extraordinary when we note that other writers (Browning, Clap, and Newcomb, for instance) printed roughly 100 copies each in *all* versions of their works. As most serial numbers we have seen

offered range from 1-50 and 100-135, it is possible that the middle block of numbers was little used. All versions contain two halftone portraits, one of David Proskey and the second of Beistle. In the deluxe edition, the Beistle portrait is autographed in the author's hand. In the regular editions, the portrait bears a facsimile signature. In 1964, Bebee's issued a facsimile reprint in green leatherette faithful to the original.

The serial number statement noted above sent me on a search of the numbers known. So far I have found references for numbers 10, 14, 30, 33, 38, 41, 51, 52, 71, 76, 88, 103, 109, 110, 114, 116, 131, 133, 134 and 135. One of the copies is inscribed to C.E. Green, but I could not determine which one from the material I reviewed. There were two copies sold in Swann Galleries Sale 1033, 8/30/76, lots 322 and 323. The serial numbers were not listed and the prices realized were \$100 and \$80, respectively.

I currently own No. 131, ex-Kolbe's 47th sale 4/3/91:718, but during my research discovered that I had bid \$30, against a \$100 estimate (talk about cheap - today, most book dealers would not accept such a bid), for No. 30 when Katen sold it in his 36th sale, 8/15/71, as lot 256. It went for \$34 and looks as if I was the underbidder. Does one of our readers now own No. 30? I would appreciate hearing from any JRCS member who currently owns a deluxe edition of Beistle, and would be glad to share any additional numbers reported at a future date. My present guess is that the books are mid R5 rarity.

To the best of my knowledge Al Overton never issued a deluxe edition of either the 1967 or 1970 printing's of **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836**, but Kolbe 6/87:602 was listed as Red leatherette, gilt. Maybe I missed something. Does anyone know anything about it? Don Parsley's 1990 third edition of the same book included 100 black leatherette special editions at \$125 each. I think he sold them all, and I don't believe any of them have shown up on the secondary market.

Another historical reference that should be in the library is the **Catalogue of John W. Haseltine's Type Table of Dollars, Half Dollars, Quarter Dollars**. It was the 11/28/1881 sale of his personal collection. The deluxe black cloth, interleaved, handpriced edition sells for around \$250, and the regular edition for about half that. There is a 1927 Mehl reprint that sells for about \$35, and an even later Hewitt reprint of the half dollars only.

The JRCS collector should also have copies of the Bolender book on dollars, the original and reprint Valentine book on half dimes, any of the Breen books that suit you and, maybe,

Don Taxay's encyclopedia. Breen's encyclopedia is recommended for everyone's library, and I have one but almost never use it. The Taxay encyclopedia is only good for historical value, the information is very outdated. If you are interested in very early U.S. silver you should have a copy of **Die Varieties of Early United States Coins** by Robert P. Hilt II. Volume Number 1, covering 1794 to 1798, was published in 1980, and we have heard nothing from him since. Therein, he published his discovery of the 1794 half dollar variety now known as O109. It is a hard book to read, but worth studying. Some research needs to be done to see if O110, and the recently discovered O111, fit into Hilt's "die group theory of coinage." I have not looked at Bowers' new book on dollars yet, but I am sure if you are interested in early dollars, it will be a must. Except for the latter, which lists for \$149 hardbound and \$195 in Deluxe Limited Edition, (both are available at a discount, \$119 and \$156 respectively, from the publisher) none of the others should cost more than \$50 each.

You will note that I have excluded any books on early gold. This is because there is nothing exciting bindingwise in the field, and there is very little interest among our members. Breen is the only one who has written on die varieties and the Akers and Taglione books only address condition. The latter books are directed toward investment (a word that is rather detestable to collectors) of gold.

Of course, any library worth its salt should also include a copy of Charles Davis' book and John Adams's two volume set of **United States Numismatic Literature**. The deluxe edition Davis exists in 15 full leather copies and 35 half leather copies. They both have marbled endpapers and were bound by Alan Grace. The latter is still available for \$225, but a black cloth edition is only \$85. Both prices are postpaid. Adams's, Volume I, *Nineteenth Century Numismatic Auction Catalogues* sells for \$100 and Volume II, *Twentieth Century Numismatic Auction Catalogues* sells for \$135. They are bound by hand and printed on acid-free paper. The last two are available from George Frederick Kolbe and I do not think they can be bought at discount. If you are considering buying the Adams's books, don't wait too long, I understand Volume 1 is almost sold out. All three of the above are an absolute necessity for any numismatic researcher.

The final entry for our library should be one of JRCS leather bound copies of the first five volumes of the John Reich Journal. At \$100, if you have copies of all the issues, it is one of the bargains in this lot.

All of the above would set someone back several thousand dollars, and I only dream about owning them all . . . If only there really was a Santa Claus!!!



The 1839 Classic Gold Quarter Eagles

John W. McCloskey

During the early part of the 19th century, all United States federal coinage was struck at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1835 congress authorized the establishment of three branch mints in the southern part of the country to facilitate the striking of precious metal coins. The branch mint in New Orleans, Louisiana was authorized to strike both gold and silver coins while the two branch mints in Dahlonega, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina were established to handle the striking of gold coins only. By 1838 all three of these branch mints were in operation and striking coins in precious metals. The year of 1839 is important historically because it was the last year of the Classic Quarter Eagle series and the first year in which gold quarter eagles were struck at all three branch mints.

There are eight varieties of 1839 gold quarter eagles known today struck at the four mint facilities. The purpose of this article is to provide some general information on the gold quarter eagles of this year so that they can be properly identified from their key features. The observations made in this article were obtained from studies made on a reference collection containing examples of all eight varieties. It is possible that other varieties exist. Known varieties from each of the four mints are as described below.

PHILADELPHIA MINT

Only one variety is known for the 1839 quarter eagle despite a reported mintage of 27,021 pieces. This is the largest mintage for quarter eagles struck at the four mints in this year. This one variety shows recutting on most of the digits in the date and has frequently been called an 1839/8. The 9 in the date nearly touches the curl and the obverse is easily identified by a triple cut 8th star over the third curl from the left. All of the coins that I have seen of this date have the tripled star. If another obverse was used for this date, it would be quite rare.

The reverse of this variety, however, is the die that has always raised unanswered questions for me in my studies of this series. In 1838 the mint introduced a new reverse into the quarter eagle series with two bars in each of the vertical stripes in the reverse shield. All 1838 quarter eagles struck at Philadelphia and Charlotte have reverses with the double stripes. All branch mint quarter eagles in 1839 also have the new double stripe reverses. But the 1839 quarter eagles struck in Philadelphia have a reverse with three bars in each of the vertical stripes in the shield. This reverse is the same style as the reverses used from 1834 to 1837 in the quarter eagle series. This 1839 reverse was, in fact, an old reverse used to strike quarter eagles in 1836. These facts raise an interesting point. Why did the mint in Philadelphia use

an old reverse in 1839 to strike quarter eagles when we can document the existence of eight new reverses with the double bars? Did they send all of the new reverses to the branch mint facilities? This seems unlikely because the double bar reverse used at Philadelphia to strike 1838 quarter eagles was never used to strike branch mint coins. An 1839 quarter eagle with the double bar reverse would be quite a find.

CHARLOTTE MINT

Three varieties struck from two obverses and three reverses with a total mintage of 18,140 coins. The two obverses have become known as the repunched date and the overdate obverses. Date characteristics alone are sufficient to distinguish the two dies. The repunched date variety has a repunched 39 in the date, with the original 3 punched far below the final position of the 3 in the date. The C mintmark is located over the date and positioned over the 3 and the space to the left. The reverse of this variety has a 1 in the denomination that touches the fraction bar, a branch stem that extends to the center of the upright of the D, and two arrowheads that are close to, yet separated from the CA. This reverse is always found with die cracks that expand with use of the die. One die crack runs from the left side of the shield up through the eagle's head and on to the A in STATES. Another crack runs from the rim and out into the field over the left wing. With die use these cracks strengthen and extend down into the 2 in the denomination. This variety accounts for more than 50% of the known examples of this date, and latter strikes from this pair of dies come badly broken. The reverse of this variety represents a later use of the die used to strike the 1838-C quarter eagles, contrary to what is stated in the Breen encyclopedia. Evidence of this dual usage is conclusive because early stages of the die crack from the left edge of the reverse shield can be seen on late state examples of the 1838-C quarter eagle.

The overdate obverse is sometimes called the 1839/8 variety because the ball of the 9 is connected to the upper loop of the digit. The mintmark is located over the left side of the 3 in the date, clearly further to the right than on the repunched date obverse. Two reverses are known to have been used with this obverse. The first reverse has a 1 in the denomination that comes very close to the fraction bar, a branch stem that extends to the right side of the upright of the D and two arrowheads that are joined to the CA. This reverse also has the first S in STATES strongly doubled at the top and late state examples show a die crack that runs from the eagle's neck through the center of the right wing and out the tip of the wing to the dentils. This is a rare variety with perhaps no more than 15% of the examples of this date struck from this die pair.

The second reverse of this overdate variety has a 1 in the denomination that is far from the fraction bar, a branch stem that extends only to the left edge of the D, and two arrowheads

that touch the CA. Late die state examples of this variety show a strong die crack that runs from the dentils through the upright of the E in STATES and out into the field. About 30% of the examples of this date were struck from this die pair.

One important question still remains to be answered on the 1839-C quarter eagle. I have seen several examples of the overdate variety with a reverse having a strongly doubled second S in STATES. This reverse matches perfectly the verbal description I have prepared for the previous variety without the doubling at the second S. I cannot be sure that the reverse with the doubled second S is not merely an early die state of the overdate variety with the second reverse. To date, I have not had the opportunity to study examples of the two potential varieties side by side in order to reach a final conclusion on this issue. At the very least, the reverse with the doubled second S would represent a separate die state from the previously reported varieties.

DAHLONEGA MINT

Two varieties struck from one obverse and two reverses with a total mintage of 13,674 coins. The obverse from this date shows recutting on the 39 in the date with the 9 touching the curl. The D mintmark is on the obverse over the date, and is positioned over the left side of the 3 and the space to the left. The two reverses are very similar but can be identified from a few key features. The first reverse has a very weak branch stem that extends over the upper serif of the D. This reverse also has two arrowheads that extend out and just touch the CA. The second reverse has a very strong branch stem positioned entirely to the left of the D with two arrowheads that are firmly joined to the CA. The second reverse with the strong branch stem might be a little more difficult to obtain, but neither variety can be considered rare with respect to the other.

NEW ORLEANS MINT

Two varieties struck from two obverses and two reverses with a total mintage of 17,781 coins. The two varieties have become known as the high date and the low date varieties. The high date variety has a 9 that is closer to the curl and an O mintmark on the obverse that is positioned over the left side of the 3



1839-C quarter eagle repunched date obverse.

in the date. The 11th and 12th stars are strongly doubled. The reverse of this variety has a widely spaced fraction with the 1 and 2 distant from the fraction bar in the denomination. This reverse also develops a die crack that runs from the rim through the I in UNITED to the tip of the upper leaf.

The low date variety has a 9 in the date that is closer to the dentils, and an O mintmark on the obverse that is positioned over the left side of the 3 in the date. The 3rd, 4th and 5th stars are strongly doubled. The reverse of this variety has a very narrow fraction with the 1 and 2 in the denomination very close to the fraction bar. Several die cracks develop on this reverse. A crack develops at the rim and runs through the N in UNITED, the upper leaf and out into the field. Another crack runs from the rim to the R in AMERICA, through the field to the tip of the upper arrowhead. A final crack runs from the eagle's neck, through the right wing, and to the base of the first A in AMERICA. The low date variety is a little more scarce and comes in normal die alignment and with the reverse rotated through 180. Specimens with the rotated reverse are not particularly rare among coins of this variety.

The observations made in this article have been obtained from the examination of actual coins. 1839 Classic quarter eagles, however, are scarce and it has been difficult to find enough coins to examine to draw specific conclusions. It seems appropriate to end this article by raising an issue that has remained unresolved in my mind for many years. It is well known that the edge reeding on the Charlotte and Dahlonega coins is much wider than

that on the Philadelphia specimens of this same period. I have never been able to adequately explain why this is true. Does the unusually wide reeding at the branch mints imply that the collar dies were made at the branch mints themselves? No information has ever surfaced to document the shipment of collars to the branch mints. If the collars were made in Philadelphia, were the widely reeded collars made specifically for use at the branch mints as an extra tool for mint officials to identify the mint of origin for a specific specimen? Maybe information will surface in the coming years that will help resolve this issue.



1839-C quarter eagle overdate obverse.



Turban Head Half Dollar Census

Russell J. Logan

Assembling the Turban Head Half Dollar census for the past eight years has posed a dilemma. Most Bust Half Nuts would claim that the census is redundant and of benefit only to the commercial sector, but I was more concerned about its overall size and participation from the advanced collectors. Fortunately all of these fears were unfounded, and the response from collectors was overwhelmingly positive.

This series is the longest (453 die marriages) of both the silver and gold Federal coinage, and it is the most popular with collectors. If we filled half a **JR Journal** with the census, and only printed 15 collections, would we hear static from the half dime enthusiasts? Should we print it in installments? When I suggested that we should do only R5's and above, the static became so loud that I thought of abandoning the whole project. Then Brad Karoleff made the R4+ suggestion and promised to help sell it.

In all the excitement we totally forgot to define the R4, R5, R6, R7 and R8 die marriages. Nobody knew precisely what marriages we were seeking! We wrongly assumed that everyone would turn to Stephen Herrman's **A Rarity Analysis of R-4's and Above Capped Bust Half Dollars** in Volume 6, Issue 3 (July, 1992) of the **JR Journal**, which depicted the R4+ die marriages based on the most common sub-variety within each marriage. We also added the Crushed Lettered Edge halves of 1833-1835 to the census.

No two collectors collect in the same style, and we all have a different perception about rarity. Our free enterprise system of 'supply and demand' takes all the input variables (known specimens, condition, die state, pedigree, active collectors, etc.) and generates a single output: price - for a specific instant in time. While it's difficult for us to agree on the condition of a specific coin, it's almost impossible for us to agree on rarity: i.e., many of you will disagree with my decision to downgrade the 1823 O113 to a R7 or to upgrade the 1825 O118 to a R8. But with the data that influenced these decisions before your very eyes, you may draw your own conclusions.

Personally, I like to make a trade-off between quantity and quality to establish a rarity rating. This is about as unscientific as one can get. But after spending months forcing the Bust Halves to fit a chi-square or Poisson distribution, I discovered that I really did not care. It was enough just to know what to keep and what to return to the dealer's inventory. This is why both condition and rarity must be considered in making purchasing decision. Take the 1823 O109 for example. How can it justify a R6 status when there are so many of them known? Compare it to 1828 O123 or 1827 O124.

To me the higher R6 rating is justified because of the low average grade (VF-20). I prefer this approach to rarity rather than the 'condition rarity' listings that have appeared in David Bowers' new Dollar book, or the David Lawrence series books on Liberty Seated coinage.

In addition to the 47 collectors who responded to this census, I added the R4+ marriages from Sheridan Downey's latest auction. This brought the total number of coins tallied to just under 3000, a respectable showing of rare Bust Half Dollars. Many thanks go to all who participated and contributed to this effort.

The next census for the Journal will be the Bust Dollars. Please submit your census to our P. O. Box in care of yours truly by June. You may use either Bolender (B) or Bowers-Borckardt (BB) numbers (see enclosed chart). And, if you wish, add some commentary about Bowers' new numbering system.

Jan-94

Based on 48 censuses submitted

R#			119	291	033	021	350	028	323	357	080	006	292	052	285	140	211	PCS	AVG	MAX
1807	11	4	40	50	15	45	45	40	20	40	45	35	30	25	45	6	8	40	28	50
1808	10	5	45	40	20	30	60	45	40	20	55	50	45	30	30	30	30	34	31	62
1809	1	5	25	12	20	30	30	30	20	12	40	8	20	30	10	12	20	24	22	45
	4	5	50	45	30	45	25	15	20	20	30	35	45	30	15	15	30	30	28	50
	8	4	45	50	40	45	45	20	15	10	45	35	45	40	25	15	45	31	27	50
	10	4	12	60	40	30	30	45	12	12	50	20	40	30	45	10	40	35	23	60
	12	5	40	40	20	40	20	30	20	12	50	30	40	30	50	25	45	26	28	50
	13	5	25	30	40	30	25	20	15	12	45	30	20	25	20	30	8	23	25	45
	14	5	45	45	40	45	30	8	20	40	30	35	30	30	8	15	25	26	28	45
1811	2	4	50	40	12	55	45	35	35	25	55	50	50	40	25	25	30	33	31	55
	7	4	50	50	20	50	40	40	40	35	60	58	55	25	40	25	25	33	36	60
	12	4	45	45	45	60	50	40	20	30	65	40	45	45	45	25	50	40	34	65
	13	5	55	42	40	62	40	58	35	15	60	35	40	30	25	12	30	23	34	62
1812	1	5	50	30	12	30	25	25	30	20	55	20	25	45	35	25		22	31	55

TURBAN HEAD HALF DOLLAR CENSUS

Jan-94

Based on 48 censuses submitted

R#			119	291	033	021	350	028	357	323	080	006	292	052	285	140	211	PCS	AVG	MAX
1813	2	4	50	55	50	62	50	30	40	30	60	40	50	30	40	30	45	34	36	62
	4	4	50	45	25	60	40	50	20	35	65	40	40	40	25	25	40	34	36	65
1814	6	4	40	60	40	60	50	40	6	35	50	40	55	45	50	40	40	29	35	60
1817	2	7		12														1	12	12
	4	6	55	50	40	50	40	35	4			40						8	39	55
	5	4	50	50	40	50	40	50	20	45	55	35	30	55	45	4	50	76	33	55
	8	4	50	45	25	45	45	55	40	50	50	35	30	40	30	12	40	33	34	55
1818	10	4	30	45	40	45	50	35	20	20	50	30	30	30	35	25	20	32	30	55
	15	4	45	45	30	45	30	35	12	40	50	25	50	30	30	12	30	29	31	50
1819	6	4	50	60	25	60	50	20	40	30	55	20	30	50	25	25	40	28	31	60
1820	4	4	45	50	40	45	20	50	8	30	40	30	45	45	40	8	50	32	31	58
	7	5	50	63	40	45	50	55	25	12	60	20	25	20	25	20	55	31	33	63
1821	7	4	40	55	40	65	40	50	25	25	55	35	20	40	53	20	40	38	37	65
1822	2	4	60	40	30	55	15	50	12	20	50	25	25	25	20	20	40	29	31	60
	3	5	45	40	12	45	40	60	12	50	50	55	55	30	10	8	20	27	32	60
	12	4	50	55	40	45	40	50		20	55	20	50	40	20	12	50	29	33	55
1823	2	4	45	50	25	50	40	40	20	30	65	50	55	20	40	10	60	27	35	65
	9	6	25	45	15	45	20	30	30	20		12	25	15	12	8	12	21	20	45
	13	7	45					30	15									3	30	45
1824	2	5	30	50	30	40	45	15	8	4	15	20	40	8		6	15	20	22	50
	12	4	40	50	25	55	40	40	50	40	55	45	45	40	50	45	60	34	39	60
	14	5	45	50	12	50	40	45	40	30	30	20	55	40	12	15	20	26	30	60
1825	3	4	50	45	50	45	55	25	25	30	30	50	25	25	55	8	45	31	32	55
	4	4	40	63	20	40	50	40	20	40	20	30	30	40	20	8	60	29	29	63
	9	5	40	45	20	45	35	45	20	15	50	40	50	12	25	6	20	24	28	50

TURBAN HEAD HALF DOLLAR CENSUS

Jan-94

Based on 48 censuses submitted

R#		119	291	033	021	350	028	357	323	080	006	292	052	285	140	211	PCS	AVG	MAX
17	4	45	50	30	50	60	40	50	50	55	40	20	40	58	10	55	31	39	60
18	8	20															1	20	20
1826	3	45	60	50	40	20	35	40	20	40	45	50	30	20	30	50	28	31	60
	14	45	50	25	63	55	35	20	35	65	45	30	60	40	50	55	33	38	65
	15	40	50	15	50	45	35	40	40	50	35	45	50	30	25	20	28	35	50
	19	45	45	20	45	40	50	61	40	55	40	15	40	40	40	45	29	39	61
1827	3	45	50	45	60	40	20	40	40	55	50	60	20	40	30	60	30	37	63
	8	40	63	25	55	55	58	40	40	50	30	40	40	40	12	40	27	38	63
	9	45	45	40	55	48	50	50	40	55	50	40	45	35	40	45	28	41	55
	10	40	45	50	62	50	40	40	40	55	40	50	45	35	40	55	33	37	62
	11	50	55	30	55	55	30	50	35	55	40	25	30	40	45	45	33	38	55
	13	40	45	25	50	55	50	50	45	50	55	40	40	45	45	55	31	41	58
	14	40	50	40	58	61	40	40	40	55	40	30	45	50	40	40	34	36	61
	16	45	45	45	63	40	50	40	50	40	55	25	55	45	25	55	28	39	63
	19	40	45	40	50	60	40	40	50	55	55	20	45	30	12	44	31	36	60
	21	40	40	50	50	50	30	40	25	50	55	40	40	63	45	40	30	35	63
	22	55	50	25	50	50	25	12	35	55	50	40	45	20	12	45	25	31	55
	23	40	60	25	55	40	35	25	20	50	45	50	40	6	25	30	27	31	60
	24	40	60	50	45	40	35	25	20	45	30	50	25	45	50	40	23	36	60
	27	40	50	30	30	30	40	30	10	45	30	40	40	25	30	55	20	33	55
	29	40	50	30	50	50	45	25	45	45	40	45	40	55	50	40	33	39	63
	30	50	45	25	50	40	45	25	45	55	50	25	25	30	8	45	32	35	55
	33	58	55	40	62	40	50	40	20	50	50	25	55	55	8	40	31	37	62
	34	45	45	40	58	40	40	40	30	60	40	30	40	50	40	45	35	34	60
	37	20	50	30	25	8	25	25	10	10	40	30		60	8		15	26	60
	38	55	50	45	45	40	60	40	40	65	45	40	50	45	25	25	27	38	65
	39	40	40	50	45	40	35	50	35	50	50	30	40	50	25	45	32	39	50
	40	45	50	40	45	40	25	50	20	60	50	30	25	45	30	30	31	34	60
	44	25	40	50	45	40	40	25	20	30	30	45	25	20	12	30	20	29	50
	45	35	50	30	55	40	40	40	20	55	20	25	25	45	25	30	22	30	55
	47	45	50	40	45	40	40	25	45	55	40	40	40	58	12	60	29	39	60
	48	45			40	35	50	25	10	30				25			8	33	50
	49																0	0	0

TURBAN HEAD HALF DOLLAR CENSUS

Jan-94

Based on 48 censuses submitted

R#			119	291	033	021	350	028	357	323	080	006	292	052	285	140	211	PCS	AVG	MAX
1828	5	5	40	50	55	50	40	50	8	40	55	50	45	25	25	40	30	23	33	55
	6	4	50	50	25	40	45	40	30	20	60	35	30	50	55	30	55	25	37	60
	11	4	45	60	40	50	30	50	50	40	40	40	40	40	30	25	40	33	35	60
	21	4	50	50	30	50	50	45	25	35	55	40	50	45	50	25	55	34	39	55
	23	5	45	50	30	45	40	45	20	40	55	30	40	50		25	20	17	36	55
1829	4	4	55	45	25	55	40	45	15	20	55	45	40	25	35	30	50	35	35	55
	6	5	45	60	30	50	40	50	50	20	60	15	25	25	55	30	20	22	36	60
	7	4	45	45	40	45	40	45	60	20	55	45	45	45	55	45	40	31	39	60
	9	4	50	50	30	55	30	40	20	20	55	40	20	30	40	25	30	26	31	55
	16	4	55	40	40	50	45	40	40	40	55	50	55	40	50	25	40	31	40	62
	18	4	45	40	40	55	45	20	50	40	55	25	25	25	40	12	60	28	33	60
	20	7							12									1	12	12
1830	5	4	40	50	25	60	40	20	20	25	60	40	15	40	40	40	60	29	35	60
	9	4	45	55	45	50	45	40	60	35	55	45	25	30	20	8	40	34	37	60
	12	4	40	50	25	60	40	30	20	30	45	45	30	55	30	40	50	30	34	60
	14	6	10	50	25	40	15	45	6	6	15	60	55	25				18	28	60
1831	12	4	58	40	30	55	40	20	12	40	65	45	12	45	45	40	50	33	37	65
	13	4	40	55	30	50	40	30	40	45	65	40	25	50	25	30	50	30	36	65
	15	4	40	40	25	58	55	25		25	55	30	40	45	55	15	30	28	35	58
	17	4	50	30	45	50	40	40	40	50	55	35	25	40	20	40	45	26	36	60
	18	4	50	50	30	45	40	45	63	20	65	45	20	45	35	30	63	33	34	65
	20	6	40	50	25	45	15		12	30	6				15			10	26	50
1832	8	4	55	40	25	60	40	50	40	30	55	50	20	30	50	12	40	29	36	60
	9	5	40	45	40	50	55	30	20	20	50	25	50	50	45	45	40	31	36	55
	14	4	45	55	20	45	45	50	20	40	55	40	50	45	50	20	45	30	38	60
	17	5	30	50	15	50	45	60	20	30	50	30	40	45	45	10	55	30	33	60
	23	7	65	45														2	55	65
1833	11	4	50	45	30	50	40	40	40	40	55	30	25	40	50	20	50	30	36	55
	15	5	60	30	12	30	20	25	10	15	20	45	45	30	30	6	10	19	25	60
	16	7			65													1	65	65

TURBAN HEAD HALF DOLLAR CENSUS

Jan-94

Based on 48 censuses submitted

R#			119	291	033	021	350	028	357	323	080	006	292	052	285	140	211	PCS	AVG	MAX
1834	10	4	50	50	50	50	50	25	40	45	65	55	30	40	60	30	40	27	42	65
	18	4	45	55	30	45	40	25	12	35	50	40	20	45	58	45	60	31	35	60
	22	7			45													1	45	45
1835	4	4	55	50	30	50	40	40	12	25	60	25	30	45	40	25	50	32	36	60
	11	8																0	0	0
1836	3	4	45	45	25	50	58	45	20	45	65	50	40	45	30	30	45	30	38	65
	9	4	45	40	50	60	45	60	30	40	60	40	55	50	40	40	45	29	37	60
	18	4	45	30	40	55	40	50	30	45	50	40	15	50	50	25	45	31	36	55
	21	5	30	45	25	40	45	40	12	25	45	25	20	30	40	25	12	19	31	50

	119	291	033	021	350	028	357	323	080	006	292	052	285	140	211	
OWNED	105	103	103	102	102	102	102	101	100	100	99	98	98	98	96	111
AVG. GRADE	44	47	33	49	41	39	29	31	50	38	36	37	37	24	40	POSSIBLE VARIETIES
R# 67	67	67	67	67	67	67	65	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	
4	46	48	34	52	44	40	33	34	54	40	35	39	41	26	45	
R# 29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	27	29	28	
5	41	46	30	44	38	37	23	25	45	33	39	33	28	22	31	
R# 6	6	5	5	6	6	5	6	5	4	4	3	2	4	2	1	
6	33	49	27	41	22	37	17	15	15	38	37	20	28	8	12	
R# 7	2	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7	55	29	55	0	0	30	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
R# 2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	



Capped Bust Half Dollar Secrets; The Screwpress

Edgar E. Souders

THE TIME; LATE 1807.

THE PLACE; THE FIRST U.S. MINT.

Thwack! Thwack! Thwack! The steady cadence of the screwpress striking half dollars could be felt through the floor into the adjoining rooms. As I walked into the sunlit coining area I could see the pressmen turning the heavy screw. Judging from the size of the heavy end-weights it was no wonder after half a day these men would be delegated to other, less physical, Mint chores. In front of the press, at its base, sitting in a hole, sat the coiner. Carefully he removed a still warm to the touch freshly minted Capped Bust Half Dollar.

“Stop!,” he yelled to the pressmen. Cautiously looking over the coin, he finished his inspection and held it up for the pressmen to see.

“I believe everyone will enjoy this new half dollar design. It appears much more refined and dignified,” he continued. “Besides, with the old half dollar, everyone has always complained about Miss Liberty’s hair and that haggard looking eagle.”

The pressmen nodded as they once again grabbed for the end-weights. Whack! . . . Whack! The sounds of the dies coming together, and the press checking, once again, began building to that steady but noisy cadence.

Oh, how I wish this above story were true. That I could go back to that time in 1807 when the first ‘new’ halves were struck. To be able to thoroughly watch the minting process, the machinery, and the men involved. What a thrill that would be.

Today, it seems, there are others who feel the same way. Especially since every few months someone asks or writes concerning the old screwpress operation. The questions are usually along this line of thought; What did the screwpress look like? How did it work? Which die was on the top and which was on the bottom?

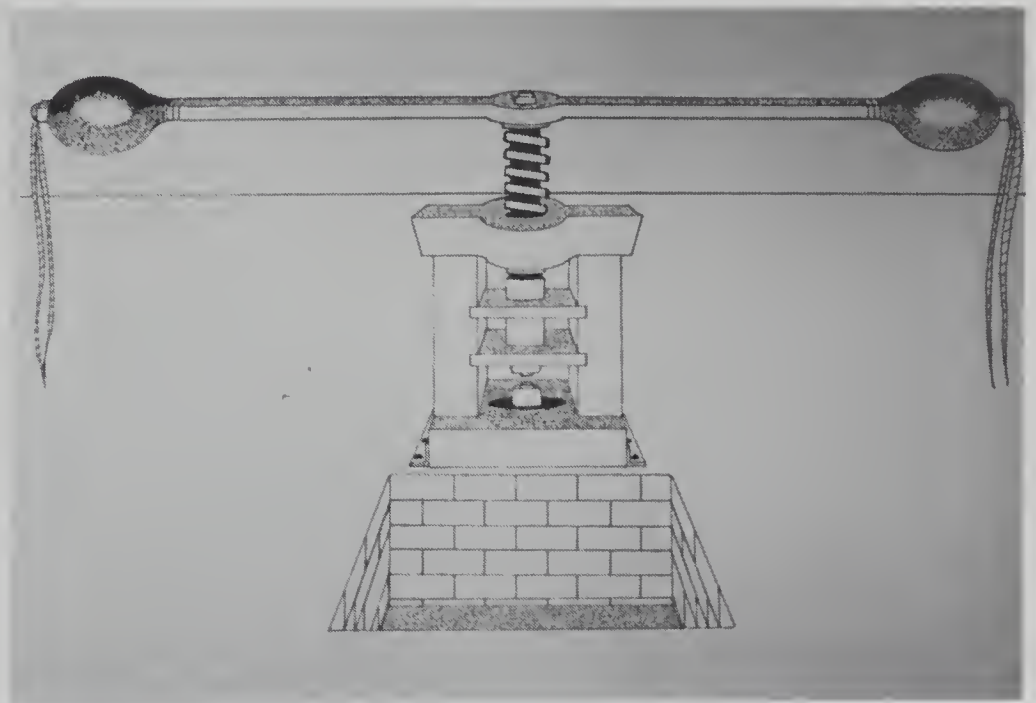
Unfortunately, time travel is still only in the minds of the science fiction/fantasy writers. The reality is that we only have bits and pieces of the records of early Mint operation. In the

past, many authors have written what they 'thought' the presses may have looked like, while others have given opinions, or pictured old drawings depicting 'some kind' of screwpress. The fact of the matter is - they were not there - and neither was I.

Nevertheless, earlier in 1993, at an informal get together in Cleveland, several JRCS and BHNC people met in a hotel room. In the course of the night, the mystifying screwpress came up in the conversation. I had brought along some information from my half dollar manuscript that I was delivering to my publishers, and some of this information concerned little known screwpress drawings, photographs and operation. Interestingly, someone asked that night my opinion as to how much of a rotation of the weighted 'arms' was necessary for a strike to occur. Some there believed a full revolution, or more, was necessary. Others thought slightly less than a full revolution with chains or 'bump boards' keeping the large arms in check. I stated that I believed only about a three or four-foot motion was necessary for a complete impact. A few eyebrows raised. A couple other individuals nodded (and I think someone even yawned and fell asleep!) After a few moments of further discussion the subject moved on to other areas.

Still, all of this had always intrigued me. Later, I began going through my research materials and notes. The first thing

I discovered was that due to lack of readily accessible information few past authors tackled the subject of the screwpress. Most simply stated that the old halves were struck by a large screwpress, T-shaped in design, and turned by means of two long arms with weighted ends. The men would turn the screw, the upper die would drop making contact with the planchet sitting atop the lower die, and the half would be struck.



This is the type of screwpress often pictured with articles of the (Capped Bust Half) time period. However, the crudeness of design shows that it is from the late 1600's to mid 1700's. I do not believe that this kind of press was used for the striking of Capped Bust Half Dollars. (Illustration by the Author)

Amazingly accompanying woodcuts or drawings often depicted extremely crude contraptions from the late sixteen and early seventeen hundreds!

Contrary to this line of thought I propose that the main screwpress(es) were not crude at all. I believe it was precision made and quite unlike anything pictured in most of the major references.

In order to visualize this better it is necessary to go back before the Capped Bust Half's time, and look at the Mint and the entire picture from a more worldly perspective.

In America's first attempt to create a Mint, we know from Robert Morris' diary that as early as 1782 (February 26th) the Mint was looking for a screwpress;

“Mr. Benjamin Dudley brought me the rough drafts or plan for the rooms of a Mint &c. I desired him to go to Mr. Whitehead Humphreys to consult him about Screws, Smithwork &c. that will be wanted for the Mint, and to bring me a list thereof with an estimate of the Cost.”⁽¹⁾

This first attempt for the establishment of our U.S. Mint failed. Today only fragments of information appear from this early time period. But it is necessary to understand that most of our minting technology came to us by way of Europe (we like to think we invented everything, but often this is not the case). In fact, the early Mint had a close relationship with Boulton's Soho Mint (near Birmingham, England) and the Soho Mint not only supplied copper planchets to the U.S. Mint, but more importantly, information on minting processes.

Through a tip from my good friend and fellow researcher Craig Sholley, I obtained **The Art and Craft of COINMAKING - A History of Minting Technology** by Denis R. Cooper. Mr. Cooper (who held the title of Chief Engineer of the Royal Mint in England), has brought to us the most comprehensive, wonderfully illustrated book on the art of coinmaking ever to appear on the numismatic scene. Further, Mr. Cooper was so thorough in his work that I doubt that this tome could ever be improved upon!

It was here, leafing through its pages, that I first saw the illustrations and photographs of numerous screwpresses - some of which were photographs of actual coining and hobbing (hubbing) operations. Also, here, I viewed the schematic/blueprint for the Droz press - of which two were brought to the U.S. Mint from Europe in September of 1792.

In 1790 Thomas Jefferson was trying to get Droz (spelled Drost in his letter) to come to the United States, and he wrote Ferdinand Grand, a Paris banker, asking him to interview

Droz about employment with the contemplated U.S. Mint. Droz was an accomplished engraver/coiner and engineer all wrapped up in one. He agreed to come to America to take charge of our coinage operation, but, oddly, failed to arrive. Jefferson finally wrote a letter to Thomas Pinckney in April of 1793 and stated that if Droz did not leave for America by July 1st, then an officer at the Mint would be permanently engaged.

I find it quite interesting that a year later, in 1794, (according to Taxay) quoting from the **Debates and Proceedings of Congress, H. of R., January 20, 1796;**

“As coinage got underway, the problem of early die breakage became acute . . . In 1794 operations were suspended more than once because of the inability of the engraver to keep pace with the coiner. The breakage seems to have been largely caused by a ‘very ingenious and complicated’ press which applied more pressure than the rather poor grade steel could bear.”

Taxay went on to further state that this press

“ . . . was undoubtedly one of the two sent over by Droz, which had a multiple thread screw for producing a faster, more forceful blow. In January 1795, John Harper advised the adoption of a simpler mechanism, and the more powerful of the two Droz presses was replaced a few months later by a model built by Adam Eckfeldt.”

(This smaller press, I believe, was more crude in design — mostly because our casting technologies were very much behind those of Europe).

Just how advanced was the Droz press? Again little information survives, but if it was anything like the one used in the Paris Mint (which was dated 1803), then earlier depictions of the screwpress used in the striking of Capped Bust Half Dollars are way off.

A vivid description of one of the U.S. Mint’s presses at work appeared in detail in B.L.C. Wailes’ 1829 journal;

“This [coining press] is a very powerful, ingenious, simple (tho very perfect) piece of machinery. It consists (like the cutting machine) of a very powerful upright screw, to the top of which is affixed a heavy & strong lever worked with great apparent ease by one man at each end, . . .

At the lower end of the screw is affixed the die which gives the impression on the upper side, & immediately under it is the die containing the impression for the reverse of the coin . . .”

Somehow the discussion of this machine does not leave the impression of the much more crude screwpress often pictured in numismatic writings. Rather it sounds as if we are witnessing the descriptive process of something akin to a fine clock. But there is more . . .

As a child, a gentleman by the name of George Escol Sellers, lived near the first Mint and personally viewed and described the coining operation.

“In the rear room, facing on the alley, with a large lowdown window opening into it, a fly press stood, that is a screw coining press . . . Through this window the passersby in going up and down the alley could readily see the bare-armed vigorous men swinging the heavy endweighted balanced lever that drove the screw with sufficient force so that by the momentum of the weighted ends this quick-threaded screw had the power to impress the blank and thus coin each piece. They could see the rebound or recoil of these end weights as they struck a heavy wooden spring beam, driving the lever back to the man that worked it; they could hear the clanking of the chain that checked it at the right point to prevent its striking the man, . . .” ⁽²⁾

What a wonderful visualization. If you are like me you can almost smell the heavy grease on the screw threads! (I believe this visit took place in the early teen years around 1812 or so).

Furthermore, I would like to state the opinion that the main press was more likely ‘short and stocky.’ That is to say I believe the end-weights were at the workman’s waist height and not above their heads as often published illustrations depict. Why? Two reasons; First, it is simply more logical that the men pushed or pulled end-weights at this more comfortable level. Secondly, I have viewed photographs and engravings showing both tall and short press styles. Most often the large style presses were used for hubbing or working die transfer operations (i.e. a slow turn of the screw brought up the design better, as opposed to the short quick stroke of the screwpress incorporated for the coining process).

Another question often asked is; How were the dies connected to the screwpress? Today, most knowledgeable numismatists feel that the dies were fitted in "die cups" and held in place by set-type screws. This, of course, would facilitate ease of working die change, removal for polishing out clashmarks, and so forth. What limited close-ups I have viewed, of this press area, would seem to prove this belief.

One would think something so important (well, at least to us), as one of the Mint's screwpresses would have been saved for later generations to examine and enjoy. However, this was not the case.

In a statement from the papers of Franklin Peale (after his return from studying European minting technologies) Peale reported the following;

"Statement of Amount received . . . for old coining presses and other Machinery belonging to the Mint. Sold by C. C. Mackey Auctioneer.

One large Press	\$250.00	
" "	190.00	
" "	107.50	
399 lbs. cast steel @ 11. cents	43.89	
826 " " 10.5	86.73	
		\$678.12
State duty, commission & advertising	\$44.08	
Weighing	.50	
Premium paid for specie	33.23	
		77.81
		\$600.31

(Signed) Franklin Peale
 Chief Coiner.
 Mint of the United States
 November 23, 1841. ⁽³⁾

Oh yes, before I forget, for those who were present last year at the discussion in Cleveland, or simply those with an interest in how far the press arms were turned in order for a strike to take place, again I return to B.L.C. Wailes' 1829 journal where he noted, and I quote:

“... & strong lever worked with great apparent ease by one man at each end, & by which the screw is made to make about one fourth of a revolution & returning instantly to its former position.”

It is fascinating to note that eventually all of the scraps and pieces of history, in time, have a way of falling together. Now, I hope, your mental picture is a bit more complete. Of what it was really like to be there in the early 1800's, when the Capped Bust Half Dollar was being coined by a very young, and very enthusiastic United States of America.

Bibliography and Sources

- (1) George G. Evans, **History of the United States Mint and American Coinage**, George G. Evans, Publisher, 1889.
- (2) George Escol Sellers, *Early Engineering Reminiscences from American Machinist*, May 4, 1893.
- (3) The Papers of Franklin Peale

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson

Frank H. Stewart, **First United States Mint - Its People and Its Operations**, Frank H. Stewart Electric Company, 1924.

Don Taxay, **The U.S. Mint and Coinage**, Arco Publishing Company, Inc., 1966.

Walter Breen, **Dies and Coinage**, Hewitt's Numismatic Information Series, Hewitt Brothers Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, 1965.

Mr. Craig Sholley, Personal Correspondence.

Denis R. Cooper, **The Art and Craft of COINMAKING - A History of Minting Technology**, Spink & Son, 1988.



The Most Common Bust Half Dollar Die Marriage

Brian M. Wasserman

I read, with interest, the article by Phil Evans entitled *An Estimate of 'The Survivors'* in Volume 7, Issue 3 (April, 1993) issue of the **John Reich Journal**. I commend him on his hard work and sound logic.

Most serious collectors of Bust Half Dollars by Overton variety have a good idea about which are the rarest die marriages. This information is readily available to the collector, but does anyone have an idea which is the most common marriage in the series? I doubt it, and most collectors probably do not care. I am sharing my opinion anyway.

It is by chance, and not scientific research, that I have come to the conclusion that the 1829 O105 is, by far, the most common Bust Half Dollar die marriage.

I began collecting Bust Half Dollars in 1978. During my first few years, I simply went to small coin shows and local dealers. I would buy half dollars based on getting a good deal on an attractive coin. The half dollars I purchased were unattributed and usually picked out with little regard as to the date. Most dealers, at that time, did not determine Bust Half Dollar varieties and often cared little about the date. My initial goal was to acquire one thousand Capped Bust Half Dollars. After about four years of this activity, I had purchased several hundred half dollars. It was then that I purchased my first copy of Overton's book. I soon realized that I was the proud owner of seven 1829 O105 Bust Halves. You can imagine my joy and excitement!

As I rethink my good fortune, there are other factors that lead me to believe that this is a very common variety. This die has many features that point to great longevity. The strike is always sharp, even on well worn coins. There are no sub-varieties listed in the Overton for this die marriage. Die cracking and other problems are rarely encountered. The condition census includes four MS-65 and one MS-64 examples which again points towards a large number struck from a durable set of dies. A recent **Coin World** ad from May 3, 1993 had 61 Turban Halves for sale, three of these were 1829 O105.

I should add that as I blindly purchased half dollars, all dates from 1807 through 1836 were acquired except 1815. The total number purchased in this manner was 251. Seven out of this 251 were 1829 O105. The second most common varieties were 1823 O112, 1834 O107 and 1836 O119 with four examples each.

I thus conclude that the 1829 O105 is the most common Bust Half Dollar die variety. I am open for challenges from other readers if they care to dispute my scientific efforts.

SUMMARY - VARIETY AND NUMBER FOUND

1807	O112	2	1814	O101	3	1823	O105	1
	O114	1		O103	1		O110	1
1808	O101	2		O105	1		O111	1
	O103	1	1817	O101	1		O112	4
	O104	1		O107	2	1824	O101	1
1809	O102	2		O109	1		O103	1
	O103	2		O110	1		O107	1
	O105	1		O113	2		O109	2
	O108	1	1818	O102	1		O110	1
	O109	3		O104	1		O113	1
	O111	1		O106	1		O115	1
	O115	2		O107	1		O116	1
1810	O101	3		O108	1	1825	O101	1
	O102	1		O109	1		O102	1
	O103	1		O112	1		O103	1
	O105	1		O113	1		O106	1
	O107	2	1819	O101	1		O108	1
1811	O101	1		O107	1		O112	1
	O104	1		O109	1		O114	1
	O-108	1		O110	1		O115	1
	O110	1		O111	1		O116	1
	O111	1		O112	1	1826	O102	1
1812	O101	2	1820	O101	2		O105	1
	O103	1		O102	1		O112	2
	O105	1		O103	1		O113	2
	O107	1	1821	O101	1		O116	1
	O108	1		O104	1		O117	1
1813	O101	2		O106	1		O118	2
	O102	1	1822	O101	2			
	O103	1		O104	1			
	O107	1		O105	1			
	O109	2		O111	1			

THE MOST COMMON BUST HALF DOLLAR DIE MARRIAGE

1827	O102	1	1830	O102	1	1833	O101	1
	O103	1		O103	1		O105	1
	O104	1		O105	1		O106	2
	O107	2		O106	1		O113	2
	O109	1		O109	1	1834	O102	2
	O113	1		O111	1		O103	2
	O115	1		O113	2		O104	1
	O116	1		O116	2		O105	2
	O126	1		O119	2		O107	4
	O128	1		O120	1		O108	3
	O135	1		O122	1		O109	1
	O138	1		O123	1		O111	1
	O141	3	1831	O102	2		O115	2
	O143	1		O103	3		O116	1
	O146	1		O106	1	1835	O101	2
1828	O102	1		O107	1		O103	1
	O108	2		O108	1		O104	1
	O110	1		O110	2		O107	1
	O113	1	1832	O101	2		O108	1
	O120	2		O104	1		O109	2
1829	O105	7		O106	2	1036	O102	1
	O107	2		O108	2		O106	3
	O108	2		O110	1		O108	1
	O111	3		O111	1		O112	1
	O112	2		O112	1		O116	1
	O114	3		O115	1		O118	1
	O119	1		O118	3		O119	4
				O120	1		O120	1
				O122	1			

[ed. - Note that there was only one R5 (or above) Bust Half Dollar that was encountered in this grouping. It was the 1827 O116]



The Lone Attributor

(or, Who Was That Stranger With The Big Silver Book?)

Phil J. Evans

A serious collector who turns into a serious variety collector will, almost immediately, confront a problem which must be solved, in one way or another. How do you go about the matter of doing serious attributing away from your home desk or work table?

Oh, yes, I know - I am supposed to have the whole book memorized, or at least the couple of hundred varieties that I do not yet own, but who are we kidding here? Yes, I know that there are a very few who do have a lot of varieties memorized. I certainly do not, and neither do most of the 'bitten' few. We need 'The Book'.

So what do we do? Right. We carry the book with us when we go to a coin shop or show. I put it into a portfolio, along with my favorite 5 power and 16 power 'glasses' and my trusty millimeter ruler. (I have The Book unobtrusively marked in such a manner as to let me know quickly which varieties I own.)

When I find a dealer, whether in his shop or at a show, who has some bust halves that interest me, I haul 'The Book' right out into plain view (face it folks, it is not a secret society) and run through my little speech. I tell them right up front that I am a Capped Bust Half Dollar variety collector, and that I would like, with their kind permission, to spend some time doing attributions on some of the coins they are offering for sale. I make it as clear as I can that I want to buy coins from them if I can locate something which I do not own, and which meets my standards. I also make it clear that I do not wish to cause them problems, or tie up valuable time or space when they are busy. I am sincere about all of this.

I run into a variety (no pun intended) of interesting reactions, and they tend to fall into five general categories, as follows:

- I **OPEN HOSTILITY**. This does not happen too often, but it does happen. I am informed in no uncertain terms that I may NOT SIT AT THEIR TABLE AND USE MY DAMN BOOK TO TRY AND TAKE THE BREAD OUT THE MOUTHS OF THEIR INNOCENT CHILDREN!! I am not quite sure what experiences have led up to this denunciation, but I do not hang around to try and find out. I just say 'thank you' and quietly walk away while they glare at me. There are probably some interesting stories behind this action, and I rather suspect some of them were brought

on by other variety collectors. I have actually seen a variety collector taunt a dealer with a 'find', after he has paid for it. That is really thinking ahead, isn't it?

- II RELUCTANT PERMISSION.** More common, and considerably less disturbing, are dealers who are not one bit enthusiastic about what I am asking to do, but they are not insulting and, if conditions are right, they will usually go along. I have found that if I am polite, patient and pleasant (and shouldn't we all be?) they will tolerate me . . . but they remain suspicious of the whole process. I suspect they have been listening to horror stories from a dealer in Category I and think I am going to get a thousand dollar coin from them for fifty bucks.

Not surprisingly, I have found absolute honesty to be the best policy with this type of reaction. If they show any interest at all in the attribution procedure I show them how I go about it, and let them examine 'The Book,' answering any questions I can. Would you believe that dealers' wives often show the greatest interest? I can often follow their mental process: "It's a slow show (or day), the guy may actually buy something . . . so what the hell - go ahead". I always make it a point to assure them that they most certainly could learn to do attributions, so as to check their own material for scarce varieties. I also assure them that through R3 (and that means most Bust Halves) there is no premium above type-coin value. I have had more than one case where dealers who started out in this category have become downright friendly (especially after I have bought some coins) and showed them that they are R3 or less. In fact there is one who now says, "just show me after you find that R7 - I want to look at it!" Would you believe that it has not happened yet?

- III ABSOLUTE NEUTRALITY.** This category tries very hard to be absolutely and unconditionally neutral. I think they believe this is the only businesslike way to go about it, however, I have noticed that they are not this austere with most of their non-attributing customers. They do their best to ignore me and my book, but will usually tolerate me if conditions are right. I suspect that they think I will go away sooner that way; and that is what they want. When I do buy a coin from a dealer in this category, I know what the procedure is going to be. They will spend about five minutes intently studying the coin under high magnification, re-check a couple of price sheets, review their purchase records again, and then, with obvious reluctance, sell me the coin. I had one who tried to raise his price after I selected the coin, but when I immediately 'passed', he re-offered it at the marked price. I do not get a cent off the marked price with this guy. They are sure that they have been had, but do not quite come out and say it. I purchased a low grade R5 from a dealer like this at a mid-sized show a couple of years ago. He just could not figure out why anyone would want to buy the coin I had selected, and became a bit sarcastic about it. I did not try to tell him. I just paid him his twenty-three dollars and walked away.

- IV **QUALIFIED ACCEPTANCE.** This is the dealer I most often encounter. He/she seems to have some idea of what it is I wish to do, and often has some limited interest in it, but it still makes them a bit uneasy. I work hard at putting this category of dealer at ease. I try hard to find something I can buy from them. When I do, I show them which variety it is and try to explain why it is that variety, and that it is (darn it) quite common. I have had pretty good luck with dealers in this category, and have gradually 'won over' a couple of them. They are good people and they want to do the right thing - they just are not real sure of what the situation is.
- V **THE SMART PROFESSIONALS.** I have had a little trouble naming this category. What it consists of are good, intelligent dealers, who make a real effort to understand their business and their customers, since they realize that it will be of real benefit to them as well as the customers. They do understand what a variety collector is all about. They also understand that it will mean good, steady business for them to accommodate us, even though they do not do attributions themselves. I am fortunate to have two examples of this category that I see regularly - one in a retail shop, and the other at a small regular, area show.

The young man I see monthly at a small show represents, to me, a new development in coin dealers. He does not have a shop, but attends thirty plus national and regional shows each year, all over the country. Once a month, he sets up at the small local show and has built a collector clientele which would, in my opinion, be the envy of many dealers. He does not deal by mail and usually does not have a table at the national and regional shows he attends. He is a combination of wholesale and retail dealer, as best I can figure it out. He will buy almost everything, at reasonable wholesale, and has learned who he can sell it to, whether it be collectors locally or dealers around the country). He buys nationally with those of us in mind who are serious collectors. He regularly greets me with "I've got some nice bust halves you have not seen" and welcomes me to sit down at his table, haul out 'The Book' and go at it. He is knowledgeable and interested, and says that some day he might do attribution, but for now he is just too busy. He buys Bust Halves as type coins, and sells them at a profit as type coins - and we both like the arrangement. As often seems to happen, he has become a valued friend, as well as a valued source of coins.

The retail shop I go to, which represents the other type of category V dealer, is run by a long-time veteran of the coin business. He is known to many in the business nationwide, and, over the years, has provided me with hours of valuable instruction. His reputation is of the kind that can only be built by many years of scrupulously honest, 'customer first', coin dealing. He does not attribute, but knows quite a bit about it and therefore understands the variety collector's passion. He is always on

the look out for Bust Halves for me to attribute, and, if they are not varieties I can use, marks their Overton number and rarity on the holder for his counter stock. He also has become, over the years, a friend.

There is, of course, one more category. The Variety Specialist Dealer. To me, Sheridan Downey III exemplifies the very best of what this dealer can be. He has built an impeccable reputation among a group of the most picky nit-pickers known to a picky business. I will buy a Bust Half Dollar from Sheridan sight-unseen on just his say-so, and have never had any problems. Of course, buying from Sheridan does take away the 'thrill of the chase' . . . his attributions are correct!

Looking it over, that is quite a gamut of dealer types, isn't it? Have I missed any? Let the **JRJ** know - I am sure Brad and Keith would share your thoughts with us all.



New Die State 1800 Dollar Discovered Bowers and Merena

Numismatists shy from terms such as 'unique' and 'does not exist', unless they are prefaced by a 'maybe'. Dave Bowers' new two volume encyclopedia of United States Silver Dollars states that an early and undamaged die state of an 1800 dollar variety "may not exist". Within a few months of publication, the previously unknown and undamaged die state is discovered - and by Bowers and Merena staff numismatist, Mark Borckardt.

Actually, the discovery is of some importance. All known pieces of the common 1800 dollar, BB196 (Bolender 17), exhibit a "collar" about Liberty's neck and about 1/2 the length of the bust. The collar, and other less distinctive marks, are attributed to clashed dies. The recently discovered specimen is the only known example from the obverse die before clashing so it is likely that the large and prominent clash marks occurred very early in the life of this die. Bolender, in his well known book on the 1794-1803 dollars, does not even mention a 'collarless' Liberty. Indeed, Bolender uses the 'collar' as the identifying mark for the variety.

The discovery piece, graded PCGS EF-40, now resides in the Yolanda Gross Collection.

The die line extending to left from just above the foot of 1 in the date is still visible, thus becoming a new characteristic used to identify this die.



Eureka! That Last Elusive Overton

Darrel Heidigh

No, No. Not the last die marriage, but a more modest last coin needed for a 'Design Type' marriage set of Turban Head Halves.

The quest started some time ago when my curiosity was peaked by the listing in Taxay's **Comprehensive Catalogue & Encyclopedia of US Coins** of 'Child's Head' and 'Maiden's Head' varieties. The first task was to determine what, based on Overton Numbers, was to constitute the 'Design Type' set.

With the help of Jules Reiver, Russ Logan and Ivan Leaman, I completed the outline of what to collect. I used capital letters as reverse hub identifiers, with roman numerals for sub-varieties, and roman numerals as obverse identifiers, with capital letters for sub-varieties.

DESCRIPTION OF REVERSES; DATE & (OVERTON #S)

A		Large Lifted Wing Eagle: 1807 (turban head) - 1809.
B	I	Smaller Eagle, Modified Wings, Spread Talons, Large Letters: 1809 - 1827, 1828 (O101-O107 & O119-O123), 1829 (O101-O109, O111-O115 & O117-O120), 1830 (O101-O113 & O115-O123), 1831, 1832 (O101).
B	II	Extra Large Letters: 1828 (O118), 1829 (O110 & O116), 1830 (O114).
B	III	Small Letters: 1832 (O102-O123), 1833, 1834 (O101-O112 & O115-O121), 1835, 1836 (turban head).
B	IV	E of Scroll Too Far Right: 1834 (O113 & O114).

DESCRIPTION OF OBVERSES:

I		Capped Bust, Facing Left (1st master die): 1807 - 1808.
II	A	Shorter Neck & Curls, Larger Ear (2nd master die): 1809 - 1811.
II	B	IIA with Coarse High Relief Curls (modified 2nd master die): 1812 - 1815, 1817 (O101 & O102), 1818 (O101 & O103).
II	C	IIA with Fine Low Relief Curls (modified 2nd master die): 1817 (O103-O106, O110, O111 & O113).
III	A	Tuck in Drapery at Star #1, Fine Low Relief Curls (3rd master die): 1817 (O107-O109 & O112), 1818 (O102 & O104-O115), 1819 - 1829, 1830 (O106, O107, O113 & O114).

III	B	IIIA with Chin & Neck Reworked (modified 3rd master die): 1830 (O101-O105, O108-O112 & O115-O123), 1831, 1832 (O107-O111, O115 & O122).
IV		Star 1 is 1 Millimeter from Bust (4th master die - type of 1832): 1832 (O101-O106, O112-O114, O116-O121 & O123), 1833, 1834 (O101-O110).
V		Heavier Chin, Double Clasp, Changed Drapery Line, Star 1 is 2 Millimeters from Bust (5th master die): 1834 (O113 & O114).
VI		Small Bust, Star 1 is 3 Millimeters from Bust (6th master die - type of 1835): 1834 (O111, O112, O115 & O121), 1835, 1836 (non-reeded edge)

The possible combinations of reverses & obverses give 12 'Design Type' marriages. The collection of these represents a challenge, but not an impossibility, like obtaining all the Overton die marriages. One can complete the 'Design Type' marriages without having to resort to R6 marriages.

DESIGN TYPE MARRIAGES:

Pair	Reverse	Obverse	Dates (Overton numbers)
1	A	I	1807 (turban head) & 1808.
2	B I	II A	1809-1811.
3	B I	II B	1812-1815, 1817 (O101 & O102), 1818 (O101 & O103).
4	B I	II C	1817 (O103-O106, O110 & O113).
5	B I	III A	1817 (O107-O109 & O112), 1818 (O102 & O104-O115), 1819-1827, 1828 (O101-O117 & O119-O123), 1829 (O101-O109, O111-O115 & O117-O120), 1830 (O106, O107 & O113).
6	B I	III B	1830 (O101-O105, O108-O112 & O115-O123), 1831.
7	B I	IV	1832 (O101).
8	B II	III A	1828 (O110), 1829 (O110 & O116), 1830 (O114)
9	B III	IV	1832 (O102-O106, O112-O114, O116-O121 & O123), 1833, 1834 (O101-O110).
10	B III	III B	1832 (O107-O111, O115 & O122).
11	B III	VI	1834 (O111, O112 & O115-O121), 1835, 1836 (non-reeded edge)
12	B IV	V	1834 (O113 & O114)



